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WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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Bulletin No. 1, December 5, 1949

U. N. Eyes Edinburgh for General Assembly

SCOTLAND's historic capital, Edinburgh, is ready to offer something new in the way of scenic backdrop for the next sitting of the General Assembly, if the United Nations decides to shift its 1950 session overseas pending completion of the permanent U. N. home in New York City.

"Stately Edinburgh throned in crags," Wordsworth described it. Britain formally nominated it as a successor to London, Paris, and Lake Success, Long Island—previous hosts to the General Assembly. For handsome site, romantic history, and personality, the city is prepared to hold its own against other municipal bidders.

R.L.S. Remembered

Literature is full of references, by talented native sons and visitors, to Edinburgh's picturesque character and dominating position atop the rocky ridge that overlooks waters of the Firth of Forth.

"Queen City of the Forth" and "Grey Metropolis of the North," are two of the telling descriptions. "Mine own romantic town," Sir Walter Scott called it. "When I have forgotten thee, Auld Reekie," wrote Robert Louis Stevenson when he was far from home in the South Seas, "may my hand forget its cunning."

"Auld Reekie" (Old Smokey) was the name given long ago to the old Edinburgh of towering masonry and high, smoking chimneys.

Today's Edinburgh is actually two packages in one—the somber Old Town, looking back on more than a thousand years of often turbulent history, and the new one of wide boulevards, spacious parks, and imposing public buildings. Between the two sections lies a pleasant valley, now covered with public gardens in place of the onetime lake.

Like an illustration for some medieval fairy tale, the Old Town rises on a narrow, craggy ridge, crowned by Edinburgh Castle (illustration, next page). Washington Irving wrote that from Castle Hill the contrast between the two towns can be seen as from nowhere else: the new one "gay and glittering like a section of Paris as seen from Notre Dame . . . the other with the shadows of a thousand sad memories mingling with the light of other days."

Center of Learning

The cramped gray buildings in which nobles, judges, tradesmen, and cobblers once lived are still standing along the narrow, steep, and twisting streets of the old city. But the great homes have lost their former grandeur and turned into tall tenements, whose crumbling walls bear occasional hints of the past in aristocratic mottoes and arms. An educational and literary center from early times, Edinburgh was already well launched on its Golden Age of learning when the New Town was built at the end of the 18th century.

Associated with the city, among the gifted company that included

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EDWIN L. WISHERD

EVERYWHERE ONE LOOKS ON ST. KITTS, THERE LIES A PATCHWORK-QUILT VISTA OF SUGAR-CANE FIELDS

Called the Fertile Island by Carib Indians, St. Kitts was settled by the English in 1623 to become Great Britain's mother colony among the myriad West Indies islands (Bulletin No. 5). A railway encircles the sugar estates and brings the cane into a central mill. St. Kitts also raises cotton and evaporates salt from sea brine. In the distance rise two Netherlands islands—St. Eustatius and Saba.

Bulletin No. 2, December 5, 1949

Lebanon Plans to Prevent Cedars' Extinction

LARGE and stately, but scarce, the "Cedars of the Lord" lie in two small, rather forlorn groves high on the slopes of the Lebanon Mountains (illustration, next page).

Allied ski troops trained among them from 1941 through 1944. The newly independent state of Lebanon, on the Mediterranean's eastern coast, has planned a 20-year reforestation program designed to restore the trees to their supposed abundance of Bible times.

Sequoias and Deodars Antedate Them

Some of today's cedars of Lebanon are believed to have lived in Crusader days. They grow out of the bare mountains a mile and more above sea level. A few are 80 feet high and nearly 50 feet in girth. Their worst enemies are grazing goats which eat the young seedlings.

Living California sequoias and Himalaya deodars far antedate individual cedars of Lebanon, but all three species are joint heirs of the ages. Solomon roofed the Temple of Jerusalem with timber from the Lebanon forests. Phoenician ships plying Mediterranean waters were built of Lebanon cedar.

When the Romans extended their power to the Near East, Pompey cleared Lebanon of tree robbers. But with the fall of the empire anarchy spread over the country, and the cedars were felled with little regard for conservation.

As a result, the trees, believed once to have extended 100 miles along the Lebanon Mountain slopes overlooking ancient Tyre and Sidon and modern Beirut and Tripoli, are now almost extinct.

Of the remaining groves, the largest, near the village of Bsherri southeast of Tripoli, numbers about 400 trees. Near by is Lebanon's highest peak, Qarnt es Suda, which rises to an elevation of 10,131 feet. Another grove stands near Baruk, on the crest of the Lebanon range southeast of Beirut.

Bitter Smell Repels Worms

Scientifically known as the *Cedrus Libani*, or true cedar, the Lebanon tree is a coniferous member of the pine family. Although closely related to cedars found in the Atlas Mountains of North Africa and in the Himalayas, it should not be confused with American species. Lebanon cedars may easily be distinguished by their branches, which grow at right angles to the trunks.

The trees are indigenous to the Lebanon Mountains and the Toros Daglari (Taurus Mountains) of Southern Turkey. In their native soil, they grow to gigantic stature. Their bitter smell repels worms, a factor in their long life. They yield close-grained, highly durable timber. Their sap is turned into a medicine for skin ailments that attack camels, donkeys, and other beasts of burden.

Cedars influence many phases of Lebanese life. A design of the tree is the most prominent feature of the state's flag. It also appears on

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Scott and Stevenson, are such notables as the fiery 16th-century reformer, John Knox; philosopher David Hume; economist Adam Smith; biographer Boswell; J. M. Barrie, novelist and playwright; and Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone.

Present-day Edinburgh has a population approaching the half-million mark. As the Scottish capital, the seat of the country's chief law courts, and home of the well-known University of Edinburgh, the city still has a strong professional and literary flavor. But it is not without an industrial side. The British printing industry centers there. Edinburgh operates a major port at near-by Leith and supports light industry.

NOTE: Edinburgh may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of The British Isles. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Bonnie Scotland, Postwar Style," May, 1946*; "Scotland in Wartime," June, 1943; and "Edinburgh, Athens of the North," August, 1932. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 3, 1947, "Self-Reliant Scotland Plans New Industries."

B. ANTHONY STEWART

GAY DANCERS WHIRL IN PRINCES STREET GARDENS WHILE GLOOMY EDINBURGH CASTLE LOOKS ON

Come-and-Go Islets Common in Pacific

SUBMERGED volcanic peaks in the Pacific are blowing their tops again, and the current exhibition puts some new islands on the map about 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii, close to the New Hebrides group.

Between the New Hebrides and New Caledonia, a restless belching shoal has built itself into a sizable exposed peak in the last few weeks, according to a French airlines captain regularly flying the region. Almost simultaneously from the same general area, another observer reports that tiny Matthew Island, some 200 miles east of Nouméa, New Caledonia, has been abruptly joined by a new peak already matching its area and 465-foot height.

Urania Came and Went in 1946

Such islands usually disappear rather quickly, but some apparently have come to stay. The volcanic action which piles them up is not necessary to make them vanish. They usually are composed of spongy ash that erodes rapidly under the incessant pounding of wind and waves.

Urania was a recent example of a peekaboo island. It was named for the British destroyer that discovered it 250 miles south of Tokyo in February, 1946. Building quickly into twin cones rising 50 feet from the ocean, it gave promise of becoming another Iwo Jima, its historic neighbor some 500 miles to the south. In two short months, however, it was completely gone.

Famous for repeating its jack-in-the-box act in convincing fashion is Falcon of the Tonga, or Friendly, group of British islands south of Samoa. Charted as a shoal in 1867, it fumed and churned at sea level in the late 1870's and by 1885 was an island cone 250 feet high. Waning slowly for years, it waxed again in 1896, but by the turn of the 20th century it was gone.

A 1927 eruption at the same old stand brought Falcon back to a still-taller 360 feet. The elements again wore it completely away. In mid-1949, its highest point was reported to be 54 feet undersea.

"Ring of Fire" Around Pacific

On a much larger scale, Bogoslof broke water in the Aleutians in 1796, to become a towering 2,500-foot peak by 1823. Waves had considerably trimmed its mass when in 1833 a second peak rose a few hundred yards away. Early in the 20th century, more eruptions made old and new Bogoslof into one continuous island (illustration, next page).

The gigantic horseshoe of volcanic mountains that rims the vast Pacific Ocean dates back 60 million years, geologists say. Nevertheless, there is proof that many large individual peaks and ranges are of comparatively recent origin. Like the submerged peaks, exposed ones in this great "ring of fire" act up from time to time, occasionally with disastrous results.

Tunaki, in the Cook Islands southeast of Samoa, and Krakatau, between Java and Sumatra, dealt large-scale tragedy to humans as part of

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coins, stamps, military decorations, and official papers. In summer the Lebanese seek the mountain coolness of the cedar area, while in winter ski enthusiasts whisk down trails beside the trees. A hotel a few yards from the Bsherri grove accommodates resorters.

NOTE: Lebanon is shown on the Society's map, Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

For additional information on Lebanon, see "Syria and Lebanon Taste Freedom," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1946; "American Alma Maters in the Near East," August, 1945*; "In the Land of Moses and Abraham" (25 color photographs), December, 1938; and "Road of the Crusaders," December, 1933.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS for January 3, 1949, "Americans Leave Impress on Lebanon"; and "Oil Line May Revive Sidon's Ancient Trade," October 27, 1947.

BRITISH OFFICIAL

BELOW THE BSHERRI GROVE OF LEBANON CEDARS, BRITISH SKI TROOPS TRAINED DURING THE WAR

Remnants of the famous ancient evergreen forest that covered the Lebanon Mountains like a carpet have survived to the present day. Many visitors come to this spot to see the cedars, to enjoy the cool mountain air in summer, and to ski on the smooth sunny slopes in winter.

Bulletin No. 4, December 5, 1949

Warm-Blooded Hibernators Mystify Scientists

HEAVY frosts and first snows, dipping far south across the United States with December's first days, have given final warning to the wild animals of field and forest. Some, like the proverbial ant, have stored food in their burrows and nests; others, grasshopperlike, must continue to forage through the cold months. Still others are nature's escapists who simply go to sleep for the winter. This is called hibernation.

The imperturbable skunk, among the last of all hibernators to retire and the first to greet spring, by now has burrowed in for the cold months. He was preceded by snakes, toads, lizards, spiders, and certain butterflies and insects. These cold-blooded creatures survive the winter by settling in dry nooks under stones, logs, or leaves from October to April or longer. They cool down almost as much as their surroundings.

Nature's Exceptions

Mammals, warm-blooded creatures depending on constant body temperatures, in general do not hibernate. Rabbits, foxes, tree squirrels, wolves, deer, and many others must stay awake and scratch for a slim winter living.

The exceptions to the rule, however, continue to be something of a mystery to biologists. The ground squirrel, woodchuck, skunk, raccoon (illustration, next page), bear, and bat are all mammals, warm-blooded in summer but capable of taking on cold-blooded characteristics for a long winter's sleep. Fattening up all autumn, they survive the winter food scarcity by slowing life's pace so that they need almost no food.

The dormouse, fat from September gorging, goes into its grass-lined underground nest with the first frost. It rolls into a furry bundle wrapped around by its tail and sleeps soundly until spring. So deep is its winter trance that it can be lifted out and rolled like a ball without being disturbed. Its name comes from its habit of spending so much time dormant.

The chipmunk sleeps as long if somewhat less soundly, waking on mild winter days to nibble on seeds and nuts which it has taken to bed with it. The woodchuck, or groundhog, fattens up and retires very early, even before food is scarce. He awakens early, too, as the February-second Groundhog Day legend confirms, but to find himself a mate rather than to look for his shadow.

Bear Does Not Fear Cold

Raccoons hibernate in families, often in well-chosen hollow trees. Skunks, sleeping fitfully, amble out on warm, sunny days. Bears are the only hibernators among larger animals, and their winter retirement has unique features.

Thickly furred and heavily "larded," the black bear doesn't fear the cold. He finds holing up and lying quiet a practical way to beat the search for food. Male polar bears even roam the ice while the females retire and bear their young in the dead of winter, probably never falling into prolonged sleep.

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their violent fates. Some 13,000 native "passengers" were aboard when Tunaki disappeared in 1836. Krakatau's explosion in 1883 created waves that dealt death to thousands along coasts hundreds of miles away.

NOTE: Islands noted may be located on the Society's map of the Pacific Ocean.

For further information, see "Riddle of the Aleutians," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for Dec., 1942; and "Falcon, the Pacific's Newest Island," Dec., 1928.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 11, 1949, "New Island Appears in Frisian Chain"; and "Elusive Islands Come and Go as the Earth Quakes on Forever," April 1, 1946.

CAPTAIN F. M. MUNGER, U.S. COAST GUARD

BOGOSLOF, PEEKABOO ISLAND OF THE ALEUTIANS, WAS ON VIEW IN 1906

Smoking Perry Peak, behind the Coast Guard officers, had emerged several months before and was to disappear somewhat later. Other parts of Bogoslof Island remain to the present day.

Five Small French Areas in India Hold Plebiscite

The five French dependencies in India, where plebiscites set for December 11 will determine whether the small and scattered areas stay with France or join the Dominion of India, are Chandernagor, Yanaon, Pondichéry, Karikal, and Mahé.

Their total area is only about 200 square miles. Aggregate population approaches 400,000. All but Mahé, on India's southwest Malabar Coast, look toward the Bay of Bengal. Pondichéry, on the southeast Coromandel Coast, is the largest of the dependencies and the administrative seat of the group. It has an area of about 115 square miles. The port-capital, also called Pondichéry, exports yarn and piece goods, and is a receiving center for much of the French imports.

Chandernagor, up the Hooghly River from India's northeast port of Calcutta, is farthest from the other French holdings. It is 600 miles from the nearest district of Yanaon, about halfway along the Bay of Bengal. Karikal lies 70 miles south of Pondichéry.

Bulletin No. 5, December 5, 1949

West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization

THE "freedom fever" which recently brought virtual independence to the East Indies now has spread to the West Indies. Governors of six of Britain's colonies in the Caribbean region are meeting in Barbados (illustration, cover) to discuss the welding of their territories into a single state with eventual dominion rank in mind.

The regions concerned, all islands except British Honduras in Central America, vary greatly in size, wealth, and political development. Men working to unify them into a single country are meeting some of the same problems that beset the founding fathers of the United States. Small colonies foresee domination by larger ones. Rich islands fear federation will mean that they will support poorer areas.

Jamaica Has Half the Population

Federation of some sort has been approved, however, by Barbados, British Honduras, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands. A "Standing Closer" committee has worked for two years on recommendations for economic and political union. British Guiana, South America mainland colony which was an early party to the talks, now has decided against federation.

Jamaica has half of the two-and-a-half-million population of the proposed federation and more than one-fourth the area. The biggest of all British West Indian islands, it was discovered by Columbus in 1494 and belonged to Spain 161 years before England conquered it in 1655.

Mountains and highlands diversify the climate. The interior is dry and cooler than the coast. Cash crops taking up the most acreage are bananas, coconuts, sugar, and coffee. In value of exports sugar and rum lead, followed by bananas, pimientos, coffee, ginger, and cigars.

Trinidad and Tobago, already linked administratively, rank second in population with nearly 600,000 persons. The climate is tropical, with seven to ten inches of rain falling each month from June to December (the rainy season). In addition to sugar, rum, cocoa, grapefruit, and other typical hot-country products, Trinidad exports asphalt and petroleum in great quantities.

Barbados Densely Populated

The Windward group, extending north from Trinidad, includes Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica (illustration, next page). Though these islands are close enough together on a map to look like a giant's footsteps, each is a little world unto itself and only the slightest ties bind them together administratively. Each even has a specialty product. On St. Lucia it is the usual sugar, but on Dominica limes and lime juice predominate; on St. Vincent it is arrowroot; and on Grenada, cocoa.

The Windward Islands have a total of 270,000 people. This is only 70,000 more than the single-island colony of Barbados, one of the world's most densely populated spots. Since it has never changed hands, as have

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Bats, useful winged mammals because of their bug appetites, literally hang themselves up for the winter. They cling by their toenails to crevices in steeples, garrets, caves, and other places where protection from the most frigid blasts is offered. Groups have been found actually frozen together, inert but unbelievably alive.

For warm-blooded birds, migration beats hibernation. But scientists frequently report swallows, chimney swifts, nightjars, and other species apparently in self-induced coma to conserve energy when food is scarce. Nightjars customarily sleep through the day and seek food at night with jarring cries.

Fish and Reptiles Practice Estivation

The word hibernation comes from the Latin *hiberna*, meaning winter quarters. Its opposite is estivation, from the Latin *aestus* (summer), descriptive of creatures which hole up against heat and drought.

In tropical areas having prolonged wet and dry seasons, estivation is common among fish and reptiles. Crocodiles and carp lie dormant in stream-bottom mud. Lungfish of Africa and South America estivate many months in hard mud of swamps that dry out completely. Worms low in the scale of life have been known to awake from slumber even more prolonged than the twenty years of Rip Van Winkle.

NOTE: For additional information, see "Mystery Mammals of the Twilight" (bats), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1946; "Once in a Lifetime" (black bears), August, 1941; and "Into the Land of the Chipmunk," July, 1931.

SPENCER R. ATKINSON

RACCOONS, ALWAYS HUNGRY AND READY TO EAT ANYTHING, ENJOY AN UNEXPECTED MEAL

Morsels left by the photographer lured this family to the "studio." If near water, they would wash their food before eating it. "Coons" are related to bears. Those living in cold climates hibernate. The white blaze above the eyes gives their foxlike faces a cunning look. The fur, including the ringed tail, made many a pioneer a warm coonskin cap.

neighboring islands so many times, Barbados is like a "little England." Its chief product is sugar cane, from which it exports sugar, molasses, and rum.

Among the British Leeward Islands are interspersed French, Netherlands, and United States possessions. Chief units in the group are St. Kitts (illustration, inside cover), Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, and the British Virgin Islands. The total population approaches 110,000.

The largest chunk of land in the proposed union—more than half of it—lies within the steamy confines of British Honduras, on the Caribbean coast 600 miles west of Jamaica and 2,000 miles from Trinidad. Only 60,000 people live in the colony. They produce mahogany logs and lumber, pine lumber, bananas, chicle, citrus fruits, and cacao, the staple from which chocolate and cocoa are derived.

NOTE: The British Caribbean possessions may be located on the Society's map of the Countries of the Caribbean.

For further information, see "Sea Fever," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1949; "*Carib* Cruises the West Indies," January, 1948; "British Commonwealth of Nations," April, 1943; "War Echoes in the Caribbean" (22 color photographs), June, 1942*; "British West Indian Interlude," January, 1941*; and "Crossroads of the Caribbean," September, 1937.

CARLETON MITCHELL

CROWDED OUT OF THE CORRUGATED-IRON SHADE, MARKET STANDS TAKE TO THE SUNNY CURB

Boxes serve Dominica's truck gardeners as stands as Roseau's market overflows to the sidewalk. Broadbrimmed hats of native palm leaves shade dusky faces. Baskets, customary carriers on Dominica, are woven by Carib Indians, descendants of original inhabitants, who live in the mountains of the interior. About 20 per cent of Dominica's nearly 50,000 people live in Roseau, the capital.

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